

Bio Ada Ugo Abara

I was born in Nigeria and raised in a small town in Northern Italy. I obtained my BA in Political Sciences, International Relations and Human Rights at the University of Padova, then I completed my MSc in Development, Cooperation and Innovation in the Global Economy at the University of Turin back in 2017.

Throughout my studies, I was upset by the Eurocentric approach that I encountered, with little or no place left for other regional studies, perspectives or even single authors. I found few alternatives and then decided to create my own space. In 2015 I founded the association Arising Africans (www.arisingafricans.it) and started deconstructing stereotypes and promoting cultural awareness on black Italy and diasporas in Europe. Amongst our projects, we realized a short movie titled "Io sono Rosa Parks" that premiered at the Venice Film Festival in 2018 and we are now promoting 8 spots on systemic racism called "Fading".

After my Master's Degree, I started working in the field of diaspora engagement and policy making; I am now a project management and implementation consultant working with different public and private entities. I spent four years working as the junior PM of the National Diasporas Summit, a project funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation. I have also organized, supervised and thought different training programs on afrobusiness, youth entrepreneurship, community organizing, diaspora engagement policies, black Italia and ICTs for Development for associations, foundations and NGOs. I was also a guest lecturer at the University of Padova, Turin, Palermo, Sapienza University, New York University and many others. I am in charge of the Research and Perspective department of Fondazione Aurora and I am engaging African Scholars in an alternative narration on socio-economic trends in the Continent.

My latest challenge is becoming an expert Information and Communication Technologies for Social Good scholar. I am deepening my studies, working with innovative startups, and focusing on D-Tech Podcast (www.dtech4good.com), my latest podcasting project on digital transformation for profit and non profit organizations and youth entrepreneurs.